

18. (New) The retinal implant according to Claim 15, wherein the second signal path comprises:

a reception circuit coupled to the second external functional unit, the reception circuit arranged for being disposed within the eye socket, the reception circuit receiving signals transmitted from the first external functional unit and passing them to the second external functional unit.

19. (New) The retinal implant according to Claim 15, wherein the second signal path comprises a catheter structure.

20. (New) The retinal implant according to Claim 15, wherein the second signal path comprises a cable structure.

21. (New) The retinal implant according to Claim 7, wherein the signal path comprises an optical communication path.

22. (New) The retinal implant according to Claim 7, wherein the signal path comprises an optoelectronic communication path.

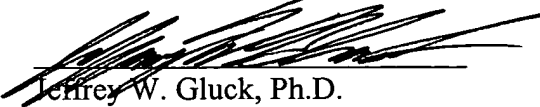
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**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is made to cancel the original claims and to replace them with a new set of claims that better conforms to standard U.S. practice. This Preliminary Amendment also claims additional features disclosed but not claimed in the original set of claims. Support for the newly-claimed subject matter may be found at least in the drawings (Figs. 1-3) and/or in the specification (e.g., at Page 6, lines 26-34).

Respectfully submitted,

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